

every night the shape sighs down  
into purple dream  
his outline breathing against the sky  
(!) do not take  
shortcuts then

#### FROM THE GARDEN

what can i give you  
if not food  
great sacks of produce  
picked from summer

words cannot do

"can't live on words" you say  
with one hand around  
a black eggplant  
the other holding  
the biggest zucchini we could find

"this one's for laughter" i said  
but you didn't even smile  
(your eyes that hungry)  
though you did manage "thank you"

well, the sun hangs in silence now  
behind the difficult weather  
behind the gray polluted sea of sky  
large green tomatoes  
hang heavily into September

the fair crowd wore sweaters again  
the fireworks at night  
sputtered into half-hearted patterns

we had beet tops for dinner  
strips of carrots  
fried green tomato slices  
late radishes  
and a twelve-ounce package of wieners  
that cost over a dollar

#### WEED BUFFALO

outside in the rain  
the weed buffalo  
is lying in the field  
asleep or patient  
waiting for  
another quirk of imagination  
to free him

he is out of place  
in the center of  
all that mown yellow  
under the landing planes ...  
the buses going by ...

he cannot change himself into  
another shape  
or move  
unless the gathering wind  
shall come and separate him  
from the clumped position:

then what will i conjure  
staring through the window

#### INTERVIEW US, WE HAVE NEWS

interview us        we are  
sitting in quiet kitchens  
we are watching the trees  
above houses

(oh rise, then, like  
ghosts above roofs,  
winter branches)

we are sipping cold coffee  
forgotten in brown cups  
by scissors and pieces and  
pieces of paper.  
a red, pen  
hurries words on a page

(oh early poems, so  
loud with your first say)

come ask us who  
we are  
and what have we done to make  
a story

(we have polished our fingernails  
we have combed our hair  
we have eaten an apple)

who are we?        we are  
shadow and mirror  
we look at each other all day  
we have no feature, we  
have no texture